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Data management for MG&G: Tools for archiving, analysis and visualization

On May 14-16, 2001 a workshop on Data Management for Marine Geology and Geophysics: Tools for Archiving, Analysis, and Visualization was held in La Jolla, CA. The workshop's objective was to bring together researchers, data collectors, data users, engineers, and computer scientists to assess the state of existing data management efforts in the marine geology and geophysics (MG&G) community, share experiences in developing data management projects, and help determine the direction of future efforts in data management.

The workshop agenda was organized around presentations, plenary discussions, and working group discussions. The presentations provided examples of the needs of data users, the needs of large, multidisciplinary MG&G projects, existing data management projects in the community, tools that have been developed for data access and analysis, examples of organizations with centralized databases, and current topics in information technology. Working groups addressed questions concerning three different themes: (1) the structure of a data management system, (2) data archiving and access, and (3) data documentation. The working groups were also asked to recommend strategies to permit MG&G data management to move forward in each of these areas.

The Working Groups came up with a list of recommendations. The two overarching recommendations were (1) Create permanent, active archives for all MG&G data; and (2) Create a centralized and searchable on-line metadata catalog. A detailed description of these recommendations and all of the others can be found in the Workshop Report, which can be obtained at <http://humm.who.edu/DBMWorkshop>.

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